

castles in Spain. It remains for us to trace these changes through the course of public events.

The Parliament of November 1381 met while thousands of rebels were hiding in the woods and wastes, while judge and hangman were at work in provincial towns under the protection of armed escorts, while the ruins of the Savoy and many noble manor-houses lay as they had fallen, attesting the fury of the storm that had wrought their overthrow. Under such sorrowful circumstances, it would have become the nobility to assemble in a mood of mutual forbearance ; their responsibility for the past and for the future demanded combined effort, and the suspension of personal feuds. Nevertheless there was an unusually indecent exhibition of pride and lawlessness. Earl Percy rode into London with an army of moss-troopers powerful enough to have held the Cheviot passes against the Scotch King, but not powerful enough to overawe the regiments of men-at-arms who followed John of Gaunt to the doors of Westminster. The two great rivals had been at death-feud since the events of the summer, and came to Parliament armed to the teeth. A collision between their retainers was daily expected in the neighbourhood of the capital. Fortunately only one of the two parties had been admitted within the walls. The Londoners closed their gates against the Duke, while the Northumbrian Earl was welcomed and feted. John of G-aunt's old quarrel with the city had never been healed, and it was not unlikely that he would attempt to exact reparation for the destruction of his property by the apprentices during the late riots. In that case the EarFs forces might prove useful. At Westminster the commanders of the two rival armies met in the presence of Eichard, who succeeded in averting a breach of the peace; but he was in no position to reprimand them or to bid them dismiss their followers. The situation was humiliating enough to a sensitive boy. Perhaps he had his own thoughts on the insolence of the baronage, and promised himself that when he was a man he would teach the haughtiest nobles that they had a king.<sup>1</sup>

The chief work of the Parliament was to restore in some

<sup>1</sup> Wals., ii. 45 ; Higden, ix. 10, 11: *Hot. Parl.*, iii. 98.